

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Sustainability Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
March 23, 2011

Present: Stoddard (chair), Lennon, Matthews, Hultgren (staff), Walton (staff)

The meeting began at 5:10 pm.

The February 23, 2011 meeting minutes were approved with one correction to the last sentence of the eighth paragraph.

Stoddard reported that the Neighbor to Neighbor program was launched March 22, 2011 with Governor Dan Malloy, Representative Joe Courtney and DEP Commissioner Dan Esty in attendance. There was representation from each of the fourteen towns. Dan Britton, the chairperson of the Mansfield Energy Education Team, spoke on behalf the Town of Mansfield's energy initiatives.

Walton reported that the Energy Education Team will have a display at UConn's Spring Fling, April 21, 2011. The Storrs Farmer's Market will allow a few energy conservation themed tables at the May 14, 2011 market. Volunteers will be needed for the May 14 market. The Community Center is interested in including a tour of the building's sustainable features during its fall open house.

Walton reported that a local group, Citizens for Global Action (CGA), is interested in the Town of Mansfield becoming a solar energy producer. It was suggested that CGA members be included on the Sustainability Committee and Energy Education Team mailing lists and invite them to participate in the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge.

The committee viewed the first draft of the sustainability web pages on the Mansfield website. Suggestions: add the interactive bike map and plans for the multi-modal center to the transportation page, place pictures directly on the web page and explain the icons on the sustainability map. Stoddard and Matthews offered to further review and edit the pages.

Hart stopped in briefly to report that the owners of the Mansfield hydro project, Sam and Michelle Shifrin, have asked if the Town is interested in issuing special bonds for the hydro system. Hart will investigate this idea further. The Town is interested in being actively supportive of this renewable energy project.

Walton reported on the 2010 Climate Showcase Communities Grant application debriefing. In general the reviewers did not like having grant funds spent on photovoltaic panels or the revenue guarantee for the first year of car sharing. The committee decided that it was not worth submitting this proposal again. Hultgren suggested developing a proposal which integrates technology with the multi-modal center.

Hultgren stated that he met with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to go over the features of the multi-modal center. The FTA likes the feature of combining staffing for the bike sharing/repair shop with the information area. Hultgren further indicated that funds are budgeted for a bus tracking information system.

Matthews stated that the Town Council voted not to send the two new schools proposal to referendum. The Board of Education will now need to prioritize the most imminent elementary school building repairs as they have been postponed during the years of the school building study.

Hultgren reported that the Four Corners Committee is dealing with the complexity of getting water to the area. The most viable option, according to the water consultant hired by the Town, is to drill a well downstream from the UConn wells on the Eagleville Preserve. Stoddard suggested that any water studies factor in the possible effects of climate change. Lennon expressed interest in serving on the Four Corners Committee. Staff will inquire about having a sustainability committee member serve on the Four Corners Committee. Stoddard and Lennon will be included in the Four Corners Committee mailings.

The Shifrins will be asked to brief the committee on the Mansfield hydro project at the next meeting, April 27, 2011. The carbon calculator and EnergyStar benchmarking will be the first items under old business.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton